

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached set of drawings (1 page) includes changes to Figure 4 to address the Examiner's objection that reference number 13 was missing from the figures. No amendments have been made to the other Figures in this application.

REMARKS

Figure 4 has been amended to include reference to the cleaning pad 13.

The specification has been amended to include appropriate headings at the various sections of the specification.

Claims 14-17, 19-20, 22, 25-27, and 31-33 are pending. Claims 14, 20, 22, 25, and 31 are currently amended. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 14 is directed at a cleaning article comprising a flocked substrate laminated to a layer of liquid-absorbent foam to provide the cleaning article with a flocked cleaning surface on one side and a liquid-absorbent foam cleaning surface on an opposite side. The flocked cleaning surface includes discontinuous areas of flock such that areas on the flocked cleaning surface are free of adhesive from laminating and are free of flock. The flock comprises fibres that are arranged substantially perpendicular to the surface of the substrate to which they are secured and have a maximum length of 2.0 mm. The fibres are substantially free of abrasive particles.

Independent claim 20 is directed at a cleaning article comprising a flocked wipe. The wipe includes a discontinuous adhesive material to which fibers of the flock are provided resulting in a discontinuous flock such that liquid-absorbent surfaces of the wipe remain exposed. The flock comprises fibres that are arranged substantially perpendicular to the surface of the wipe to which they are secured and have a maximum length of 2.0 mm. The fibres are substantially free of abrasive particles.

The unflocked areas of the article provide a useful advantages. As stated in the specification, the flock is preferably applied in such a way that any liquid-absorbent properties of the other surface of the wipe are unaffected. (p. 8, line 15-17). Further as stated in the specification, the unflocked surface or surface area of the wipe are available to provide the normal wiping action for which the wipe 25 is intended. (p. 9, lines 8-12). Therefore, it is clear

None of the cited references alone or in combination teach or suggest the claimed cleaning article or cleaning wipe with the claimed discontinuous flocked surface. Specifically, WO98/45112 does not disclose the claimed discontinuous flocked cleaning surface.

Overseth (US5947807) does not disclose a flocked substrate laminated to a layer of foam. Overseth specifically discloses releasable attachment by hook/loop connection. Further,

Overseth does not disclose a liquid-absorbent foam but instead discloses a closed-cell foam. (col. 7, line 31-35). The fibers disclosed in Overseth are greater than the claimed fiber length. (col. 6, line 12-13). Finally, Overseth does not disclose the claimed discontinuous flocked cleaning surface.

Dunkley (US6115873) does not disclose the claimed discontinuous flocked cleaning surface. Landler et al. (US4418106) does not disclose the claimed discontinuous flocked cleaning surface. Bish et al. (US4421809) is not directed at a cleaning article but instead a floor mat. Further, Bish et al. does not disclose the claimed discontinuous flocked cleaning surface.

Garcia (US5419015) does not specifically disclose a flocked cleaning surface. Zilg et al. discloses a cleaning surface that comprises filament loops and not a flock. Therefore, neither Garcia alone or in combination with Zilg et al. disclose each and every element of the flocked cleaning surface, especially the discontinuous flocked cleaning surface.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Examination and reconsideration of the application as amended is requested. Applicant welcomes a telephone interview to more fully understand the examiners position and advance this case to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,

7/11/2008

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